

considerable period suffered from ill health, and a few months ago had become insane, and had to be admitted as a patient at the Asylum. The position was made, as he had only been eight years in the ministry, and was not therefore entitled to the benefit of the fund.

Mr. Snelling moved that the memorial be referred to the Committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and at the same time recommending it to their favorable consideration.

THE QUESTION OF UNION.

The debate on this question, adjourned from yesterday evening, was resumed.

Mr. Gordon said that in view of the strong feeling entertained by a large number of Presbyterians with reference to the principle of the Headship of Christ, it did seem somewhat surprising that some recognition of the doctrine could not have been introduced into the articles. Such an introduction would allay all opposition to Union, and he most anxiously desired to see that the doctrine should be embodied, seeing that it was in effect universally acknowledged.

Prof. Caven, on taking up the discussion, thought it quite competent for the Assembly to insert an article as to the Headship of Christ in the basis. He, however, did not think it advisable to do this, as this would look like giving particular prominence to a single doctrine. The first article was not put forward as a list of doctrines, or as the doctrine of inspiration, but merely to show from whence their faith was derived. The whole form of basis submitted was general. Although he would, and could never depreciate the importance of the Headship doctrine, yet he held the opinion that many of their esteemed brethren were in danger of giving it a prominence that it did not hold in the theology of the Reformed Church. He considered that the basis was so far complete that it should be sent down to their Presbyteries. (Applause.)

Rev. John Scott could not agree with Professor Caven. What was the point that caused a disruption in the Church on a former occasion? It was the denial in practice of the supremacy of Christ over His Church, and yet some brethren told them that the doctrine should not be mentioned at all. He thought means should be taken to ascertain whether there was an unanimous opinion in regard to the matter among the Churches.

Prof. Caven said the Assembly had already come to a conclusion on the point.

After some further discussion by Rev. Mr. Scott, Mr. Young, and Prof. Bryce, Mr. McLaren, seconded by Mr. McMillan, moved the following amendment to the amendment:—"That the Assembly having considered the basis of Union in the light of the documents which accompany it, find that the Union Committee do not appear to have obtained such a deliverance on the Headship of Christ as was contemplated by last Assembly, and whereas it is of great importance that the Church should have full opportunity to judge whether the subject contemplated by last Assembly has been sufficiently secured by the action reported by the Committees on Union, therefore, Resolved: that the basis of Union, together with the whole report and accompanying documents, be printed and sent down to Presbyteries for consideration, and that Presbyteries be instructed to report thereon to next Assembly."

The amendments were lost, and the original motion finally carried on a division of 350 to 125. The four articles, therefore, stand accepted by the Assembly as the basis of Union.

The Assembly adjourned.

AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The Moderator resumed the chair at half-past three. After devotional exercises,

The minutes of the morning's proceedings were read and confirmed.

SABBATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Rev. J. Thompson, Secy., presented and read the report of the Sabbath School Committee. It stated that increased zeal was being manifested in this department of Church work. The number of schools at present in existence was five hundred and twenty. The number of scholars in 1872 was 34,197, and in 1873 34,172, being an increase of 2,950. The average for 1874 was 28,597. The number of teachers in 1872 was 8,898, and in 1873 4,422, being an increase of 521. The number of volumes in the library amounted to 97,077, or an increase over 1872 of 11,256. The mission contributions for 1872 amounted to \$3,477.44; for 1873 \$3,921.18, being an increase of \$443.74. The contributions for all purposes amounted to \$13,762. A recommendation was attached to the report in regard to the holding of Sabbath School conventions.

After some discussion, the report was recommended, as it was not completed.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

The report of the Committee on the Widows' and Orphans' Fund was presented and read, of which we give an abstract. The financial statement for the year was as follows:—

Table with columns for RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE, listing various financial items and their amounts.

The widows or families at present receiving annuities are twenty-three in number.

A number of alterations in time of the re-

gulations was recommended, the principal being as follows:—

To amend section 5 as follows:—The claim of each widow or orphan family shall date from the death of the husband or father, as the case may be, and the annuity payable at the first term thereafter shall be a proportionate part thereof, to be computed from the date of such death.

The Committee further recommend that in the case of death of widow and orphan children, each annuity be increased in the meantime \$20 per year, and that the 11th Section be amended accordingly.

The report was adopted.

PROFESSORS AT KNOX AND MONTREAL COLLEGES.

An overture was read from the Presbytery of Toronto, respecting the chair of Systematic Theology, now vacated at Knox College. It was prayed that Prof. Gregg be appointed to the vacancy.

An overture was also submitted from the Presbytery of Montreal, praying that the Rev. John Campbell, of Church-street church, Toronto, be appointed to the charge of Church History and Apologetics at Montreal College.

The respective overtures were supported by Rev. M. Taylor and Rev. J. Gibson for Montreal, and the Rev. Mr. King for Toronto.

The question was being considered when the Assembly adjourned, it being six o'clock.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

The Moderator took the chair at 7.30. After devotional exercises,

The minutes of the afternoon's proceedings were read and confirmed.

PROFESSORS AT KNOX AND MONTREAL COLLEGES.

The discussion on this matter was resumed.

Rev. Dr. Moore moved, That the Assembly do now proceed to appoint a professor to the chair of Church History at Montreal College.

Rev. Mr. Burton seconded the motion. He thought as a matter of justice that it was high time the chair of the Montreal College should be filled. Lecturers could not do well the work of professors, and the staff of the Montreal College was a strong one only in lectures. As a matter of fact, there was only one professor at Montreal. If they intended to equip both Colleges, and make them worthy of their Church, they should place them on an equality in this respect. The truth after all was that local interests interfered with the well-being of the Church. It was not a question of Toronto vs. Montreal, but one of fairness.

Rev. Mr. Simpson moved, in amendment, That the overture be received, and that the Assembly proceed to fill the vacant chairs in both colleges. He did not think any objection should be offered to sending Rev. Mr. Campbell to Montreal, as Knox College could hold its own so long as Prof. Gregg and Prof. Caven remained here.

Rev. Mr. Moore having consented to withdraw his resolution, Mr. Simpson's amendment stood as the original motion.

Rev. Mr. King moved, in amendment, That the Assembly proceed to appoint a Professor of Church History and Apologetics at Montreal College. This was carried.

Rev. Mr. Campbell was then appointed without additional opposition to the chair of Church History and Apologetics at Montreal.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY AT KNOX COLLEGE.

Dr. Waters moved that Rev. Mr. McLaren, of Ottawa, be appointed to the vacant chair of Systematic Theology at Knox College.

Rev. Mr. Cuthbertson nominated Rev. Mr. Proudfoot for the same professorship.

Rev. Mr. McQuaig nominated Rev. Robt. Uro for the same.

Rev. Mr. Uro requested that his nomination might be withdrawn. This was agreed to.

Mr. Gordon begged to nominate Rev. J. M. Gibson, of Montreal, for the professorship of Knox College.

The nomination of Rev. Mr. Gibson was withdrawn at his own request.

The vote on the nominations was then taken, and Rev. Mr. McLaren elected by a large majority.

On motion, the vote was then made unanimous.

The Assembly adjourned at 10.30 p.m.

FIFTH DAY.

The Moderator took the chair at ten o'clock. After devotional exercises,

The minutes of the previous day's proceedings were read and confirmed.

Rev. Dr. Thornton regretted to have to inform the Assembly that Mr. Smith, one of the Commissioners from Bowmanville, had been taken ill and had been compelled to return home. The prayers of the Assembly were desired in his behalf.

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

Rev. Professor Gregg presented the report of the Committee on the Reception of Ministers, which recommended that the Rev. William Horner and Rev. W. Giering should be received into the ministry of the Church.

The report was adopted. The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented their report, recommending the order of business for the day, which was adopted.

THE QUESTION OF UNION.

The discussion on this matter was resumed.

Rev. Dr. Topp moved the adoption of the third deliverance agreed upon by the St. John Committee relative to the doctrine of the Headship of Christ, as follows:—"The Committee now resumed consideration of that part of the minutes of the Conference at Montreal which referred to the Headship of Christ, and which had engaged attention

at a former session. After further deliberation, it was moved by Professor Caven, seconded by Dr. Topp, and carried unanimously. That the Committee, having heard the minutes of Conference regarding this subject, which have been read, does now express its satisfaction with the unanimity of sentiment which is exhibited in the document therein referred to." He said that the Committee were fully alive as to the paramount importance of the question, and the great necessity of a harmony of opinion in the Church on the subject. He thought that the doctrine of the Headship of Christ was fully set forth and embodied in the Confession of Faith, the Act of Independence, and the general faith of the negotiating churches. It was a matter of considerable regret that members of this Church who had approved the proposed basis, had seen fit to throw doubts upon the sincerity of their brethren in the declarations they had made regarding this doctrine. He begged to move the adoption of the deliverance. (Applause.)

After remarks by Mr. Ross, Prof. Caven, Dr. Proudfoot, Rev. Mr. Uro, and the Moderator,

Rev. Mr. Ross moved in amendment "That it is anything but satisfactory to this assembly to find the Headship of Christ over the Church and over the nations, which form so material a part of our present union covenant, left in the loose, unauthoritative way it is left in the report of the Union Committee."

Mr. McMillan seconded the amendment. The question was put to the vote, the amendment lost, and the deliverance adopted by a large majority.

Rev. Dr. Topp moved the adoption of the fourth deliverance agreed upon by the Joint Committee at St. John, as follows:—"The Committee took up the consideration of the subject of Public Worship, when it was unanimously resolved, That with regard to modes of worship, the practice presently followed by congregations, in the matter of worship, shall be allowed, and that further act on in connection therewith be left to the legislation of the United Church.

Rev. Mr. Ross moved the rejection of the deliverance.

Mr. McMillan seconded the amendment. Rev. Mr. Scott thought that the words "practice presently followed by congregations," should be altered to "presently sanctioned by the negotiating churches."

Rev. Dr. Topp said the alteration was unnecessary, as the latter part of the deliverance proved that in case any congregation departed from the form of worship, further action would be taken by the United Church.

The amendment was then put to the vote and lost. The deliverance was then adopted by a large majority.

Rev. Dr. Topp then moved the adoption of the fifth deliverance, which was as follows:—"The subject of Collegiate Education was next brought under the notice of the Committee, when, after discussion, Principal Snodgrass moved, and the Hon. John McMurrich seconded the motion, That the negotiating Churches shall enter into union with the Theological and Literary Institutions which they now have; and that application be made to Parliament for such legislation as will bring Queen's University and College, Knox College, the Presbyterian College, Montreal, Morrin College, and the Theological Hall at Halifax, into relations to the United Church similar to those which they now hold to their respective Churches, and to preserve their corporate existence, government, and functions, on terms and conditions like those under which they now exist; but the United Church shall not be required to elect Trustees for an Arts' Department in any of the colleges above named."

The motion was unanimously carried. The next deliverance, relative to the establishment of a fund for the benefit of widows and orphans of ministers, was adopted.

THE QUESTION OF UNION.

Rev. Dr. Topp moved the adoption of the seventh deliverance as follows:—"That such legislation shall be sought as shall preserve undisturbed all rights of property now belonging to congregations and corporate bodies, and, at the same time, not interfere with freedom of action on the part of congregations in the same locality desirous of uniting, or on the part of corporate bodies who may find it to be expedient to discontinue, wholly or partially, their separate existence."

Rev. Mr. Ross opposed the motion. He reiterated his views about the Headship of Christ. He added that the deliverance would straiten the Church of its property.

The deliverance was adopted.

The Rev. Dr. Topp moved the adoption of the eighth deliverance as follows:—"That the Temporalities Fund shall remain, as at present, in the hands of a Board, the membership of which shall be continued, after the consummation of the Union, by the remnant members having power to fill vacancies caused by death, resignation, or otherwise; and the administration of the Fund shall continue on the same principles and for the same purposes as at present, until vested rights shall have lapsed, and these rights shall be held to be the following:—(1) The annual receipt by ministers now receiving four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450), four hundred dollars (\$400), or two hundred dollars (\$200), of the same amount during their lifetime, and good standing in the Church. (2) The annual receipt of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) by the Treasurer of Queen's College, and (3) the annual receipt of two hundred dollars (\$200) by all the ministers who shall be on the Synod Roll at the time of the Union, and by all recognized Probationers and Licentiates during their lifetime, and of good standing in the Church; that as soon as the Fund, or any part of it, shall no longer be required for these purposes, it shall be appropriated (1) to the formation of a fund for the benefit of Aged and Infirm Ministers of the United Church, retired from the active duties of the Ministry with the sanction of the said Church, in the proportion of six-ninths; (2) for the extension and maintenance of the Theological Faculty of Queen's College, in the proportion of two-ninths; (3) to the Ministers' Widows and Orphans

Fund of the said United Church, in the proportion of one-ninth—these calculations to be based on a capital fund of four hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000), and the residue, over and above this amount, up to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), to be devoted to the maintenance of the Theological Faculty of Queen's College; and whereas, the Committee on Union desire instructions as to the mode of making provision for the payment of two hundred dollars (\$200) per annum to all ministers on the roll at the time of union until such time as they become beneficiaries of the Temporalities' Fund, the Synod refer the matter to the wisdom of the Committee to arrange such method of provision as they deem best, drawing, if necessary (but only as an extreme measure, when no other method of meeting the difficulty can be devised, upon the capital of the Fund—the same to be repaid to capital before any distribution of the principal fund takes place.

The deliverance was adopted. The Assembly adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The Moderator took the Chair at three o'clock. After routine business,

A petition from the Presbytery of Bruce was submitted, appealing against the action of the Home Mission Committee. It was referred to a Select Committee appointed by the Moderator.

THE QUESTION OF UNION.

On motion of Dr. Topp the following final resolutions of the St. John Committee were approved of:—

That this Committee record its satisfaction with the proposed arrangement of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland.

That the Committee does now express its confident expectation that the United Church will heartily take up and prosecute the Home and Foreign Missionary and Benevolent operations of the several churches, according to their respective claims; and that with regard to the practical work of the Church, and the promotion of its schemes, while the General Assembly shall have the supervision and control of all the work of the Church, yet the Committee recommend that the United Church shall have due regard to such arrangements, through Synods and Local Committees, as shall tend most effectually to unite in Christian love and sympathy the various sections of the Church, and at the same time to draw forth the resources and energies of the people on behalf of the work of Christ in the Dominion, and throughout the world.

The Committee further agreed that the name of the United Church should be "The Presbyterian Church of British North America."

THE ASSEMBLY FINALLY APPROVE OF THE UNION.

Rev. Mr. Cochrane, seconded by Dr. Proudfoot—That this Assembly having heard and discussed the report of their Committee on Union, adopt the same with thanks to the Committee for their important services; and further, having considered the proposed basis of Union, with the deliverances of the Joint Committee on the various subjects brought before them, approve of the said basis and deliverances, viz., on State grants to educational establishments of denominational character; in the mode of election of Theological professors; on the Headship of Jesus Christ over His Church; on modes of worship; on Collegiate education; on the establishment of a fund for the benefit of widows and orphans of Ministers; on rights of property; on the Temporalities funds of the Presbyterian Church in connection with the Church of Scotland; and on the missionary schemes of the Church, and on the proposed name of the United Church; and now rejoicing in the prospect of a speedy and harmonious union of the four negotiating churches, resolve, in terms of the Barrier Act, to send down to Presbyteries, Kirks, Sessions, and congregations, the aforesaid basis and deliverances for their consideration, with instructions to sessions and congregations to report to Presbyteries, and Presbyteries to transmit their own reports, and those of sessions and congregations, to next General Assembly.

Some objection was offered to putting this motion, it being urged that a great many of the members of the Assembly were absent, who might perhaps dissent. It was, however, decided that it was the duty of all members to be present during the sederunts of the Assembly, and the resolution was accordingly put to the vote and carried.

MEETING OF NEXT ASSEMBLY.

After some discussion, it was decided to hold the next annual meeting of the Assembly in Knox Church, Ottawa, the first Tuesday in June, 1874.

PRINCIPAL OF KNOX COLLEGE.

An overture was received from certain members of the Assembly, praying that Prof. Caven be appointed Principal of Knox College, and that his title be "the Rev. the Principal of Knox College."

The overture was received, and its prayer granted.

HOME MISSION FUND.

The Committee appointed to consider the report of the Home Mission Committee and relative papers, reported a number of recommendations thereon, which were considered seriatim.

The first recommendation was that the Assembly approve of the plan adopted by the Committee of sending deputations to the different Presbyteries, and give the Committee authority to make such arrangements for such deputations during the present year if they see fit, in the expectation that every endeavor be used to secure that appointments made be fulfilled.

This clause, after some discussion, was adopted.

The second clause recommended that the Assembly approve of the Committee's action regarding if a congregation of Knox Church, Winnipeg, and expressed a hope that it

would not be considered necessary any longer to draw upon the services of Professor Bryce to such an extent as to interfere with the special work to which he has been appointed by the Assembly. The Committee called the attention of the Assembly to the fact of the incorporation of Manitoba College, and the consequent necessity of appointing a Board of Management.

This clause was also carried. The third clause recommended that all ordained Missionaries of the Church in the Province of Manitoba and the North-western territory be recognized as members of the Presbytery of Manitoba. Carried.

The fourth clause, that the Committee, having learned that Mr. Jameson, having received in 1872 from the Foreign Mission Committee and people the sum of \$2,050, and that since last year he has already received the sum of \$1,500, leaving a balance of \$296, recommended the payment of this amount in full settlement of Mr. Jameson's claims for the past year, it being understood that this amount shall be drawn in equal proportions from the Home and Foreign Mission funds. The Committee also recommended that for the future the Home Mission Committee be recommended to pay Mr. Jameson \$1,000 per annum, in the expectation that the congregation will supplement this amount by \$600.

This clause was adopted, and it being six o'clock, the Assembly adjourned.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

The Moderator took the chair at seven o'clock. After devotional exercises,

Rev. Dr. Waters presented and read the report of the Committee on Statistics. It stated that the number of persons connected with the Canada Presbyterian Church in the Province of Ontario amounted to 230,455, and in the Province of Quebec to 17,828, being a total for the two Provinces of 248,283. No less than 63,913 persons were returned simply as Presbyterians. Distributing these between the two great Presbyterian bodies, the Committee discovered that three-fourths of this number must belong to the Canada Presbyterian Church of Scotland. The total number in the two Provinces would, therefore, be 296,212, while the total number connected with the Church of Scotland would be 92,168. The total population of the four Provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick was estimated to be 3,485,761. Of these 554,998 were Presbyterians, showing that Presbyterianism was professed by about one-seventh of the population. In the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the Canada Presbyterian Church was exceeded numerically by the Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, and Wesleyan Methodist bodies, but in the four Provinces the relative numbers were as follows:—Roman Catholic, 1,492,028; Methodist, 549,499; Presbyterian, 544,793; Episcopalian, 404,049. It would thus be seen that the Presbyterian Church occupied the second rank among the Protestant Churches in four Provinces, while the Methodists only exceeded it in number by about four thousand.

The report, which was a very extensive one, conveyed other information of great interest, and was listened to with great attention.

Rev. Mr. Cochrane, seconded by Mr. Fraser, moved that the report be received and adopted, and the thanks of the Assembly tendered the Committee, and especially to the Convener for his diligence in the preparation of the report; and further, that the report be printed in the appendix to the minutes, and that the usual annual grant be made to the Convener, in recognition of his services as a convener of the Committee. Carried.

[CONTINUED ON FIRST PAGE.]

NO SHARP CORNERS.

The instinct of bees in the construction of their cells has always been an object of wonder to those who are capable of appreciating it. Every cell has many sides; each side has straight lines and sharp corners; but never does any cell present its sharp corner to its neighbor cell. A soft over side to every neighbor side. Each fits to each, firm to support, and yet soft in the contact. No interstices are left, where filth might accumulate to annoy and defile. Thus let man meet man as they tread the crowded path of life. As master, as servant, as seller, as buyer, as entertainer, as guest, as borrower, as lender, he should ever present to every brother a side that is at once soft and strong. Faithfulness to make it firm, and love to make it soft. Always a side to your neighbor that is at once soft and strong. No sharp corner of your own selfishness that will pierce your brother.—Arnol.

THE PLEDGE OF SAFETY.

A ship had been wrecked off an island in the South Seas. To the horror of the sailors, they found it was the same island where a ship's crew had been killed and eaten by the natives. Henry with the struggle in the storm, the deaths were denounced; they hid themselves as best they could, with the scanty stores in the caves along the shore. When they could endure no longer, they crept stealthily up the hill between them and the town. Every cracking limb and rustling leaf was a fearful tell-tale to their minds, and when they reached the summit the terrors of death came over them, and they dared not go on.

But one of the number, more hardy than the rest, kept on, and at that very point where they expected his courage to fail, and that returning he would bring upon them the man-eaters, just then he rose from his knees, and swung his hat and shouted, "Safe, safe, all safe!"

He had not seen a band of soldiers from a Christian land, nor a troop of his own countrymen, nor even a single living soul; but he had seen a little church spire which rose from the village, and among their rude homes was pointing toward heaven.

The Christian missionary had been there, and God's work among the people was the pledge of safety to all the world; and so, the words came true—"The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him."